UNIT NUMBER: OTTER

AREA OF SERVICE: PACIFIC NORTHWEST COAST (1853-1890)

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:
Propellor-driven screw steamer, schooner-rigged

Construction: Oak frame
Designer and builder: Builder: Richard and Henry Green, Blackwall (A.1/67, fo. 206d).
Dimensions: Length - 122'; breadth - 20'; depth - 12' (C.7/111).
Draft: Number of passengers: Number of crew:
Plans: screw shaft (A11/87b fo.94; A11/88 fo.132); crank of back engine (A.11/89 fo. 428)
Registered:
Speed:
Tonnage: 219 tons.

HISTORY:
1852 Built in London by Richard & Henry Green at Blackwall for the Hudson's Bay Company
1852, 28 December Left Gravesend at Ramsgate, then to Plymouth until 4 February 1853 (C.1/625)
1853, 5 July Arrived in Victoria, first screw-propelled Hudson's Bay Company boat on the Pacific (C.1/625)
1853-1858 Acts as supply ship for the Northwest coast, made frequent trips to San Francisco carrying coal and produce from Company farms (C.1/625; Hacking, The Princess Story..., p. 49).
1858-1862 With gold rush on Fraser River, used as passenger and freight vessel, Victoria to Fort Langley (Hacking, The Princess Story..., pp. 54-55).
1862-ca. 1880 With purchase of Enterprise, she returned to Northern route (Hacking, The Princess Story..., pp. 68-70).
1880, 21 August Ran on a rock near Bella Bella and sank, but was raised and continued work (Walbran, B.C. Coast Names..., pp. 367-368)
1883 Sold to Canadian Pacific Navigation Co.
1886 Converted to coal hulk by CPN Company (Hacking, The Princess Story..., p. 71).
1890 Sold to San Francisco wrecker who burned her at Bentinck Island for her copper (Hacking, The Princess Story..., p. 71)
1895 Vessel broken up and Registry closed

MASTERS:
1852-1854 Joseph Miller B.239/k/3, p. 60, 84; C.1/625
1855, April-1862 William Mouat B.226/g/9; C.1/625
1862-1863 Herbert Lewis B.226/g/10, fo. 2d
1863-1865 William John Swanson B.135/k/1, p. 374; B.226/g/11-12
1865-1875 Herbert G. Lewis B.226/g/13-22
1875-1878 William McCulloch B.226/b/47, fo.720; B.226/b/48,fo.225, 336; B.226/b/49, fo.532; B.226/b/50,fo.637
1879-1881 J.A. Gardiner A.11/90a, fo. 216; B.226/b/50, fo. 823; B.226/b/52, fo. 288
1882 William McCulloch B.226/b/53, fo. 458
1884 William Meyer

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTARY ART:
1987/363-S-48; 1987/363-O-23 and others; Painting by G.S. Brodie ca. 1868-1870 in Glenbow, Calgary AB

REFERENCES:
C.1/625 Ship's Log 1852-1861
C.7/111 Licence, Specifications 1875-1883

MICROFILM REELS:
C.1/625 Ship's Log (2M53-2M54)
C.7/111 Licence, Specifications (2M138)

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